Urban Metabolism in Policy and Practice

The goal of the three seminars

Aristide Athanassiadis – May 9th 2019
Urban Metabolism: a diverse research field
Urban Metabolism
Research field (unconsolidated) studying flows and actors from a systemic perspective
Urban Metabolism: a tool for city officials
An analytical tool for circular economy
Programme Régional en Economie Circulaire

Focus sur 5 secteurs

3 objectifs
- Objectifs environnementaux
- Opportunités économiques
- Relocaliser l'économie à Bruxelles
- Contribuer à créer de l'emploi

Gouvernance
- 4 Admins
- 3 Cabinets
- 1 Stratégie 2025

Aujourd'hui

Indicateurs
- Marchés publics
- Aides économiques directes
- Marchés directs
- Aides économiques indirects
- Innovation
- Formation
- Emploi
- Cadre législatif
- Économie Sociale

Mesures transversales

2025
- Logistique
- Déchets
- Alimentation
- Commerces

10 Zones prioritaires
- Un territoire
Urban Metabolism of Paris
Circular Economy Plan of Paris
Urban Metabolism: in practice
Local practices

Plateforme des Acteurs pour le Réemploi des Éléments de Construction à Bruxelles

Local practices
Consultancies / Services
IZMIR CYCLING SCAN – Turkey
THE METABOLISM OF ANTWERP
NINGO-PRAMPRAM EXPANSION – Ghana
METABOLISM OF ALBANIA

METABOLISM OF BRUSSELS
ATELIER STAD – Breda
URBAN METABOLISM – Rotterdam

Landscape – Urban planning
Goals of the seminars series
Metabolism is an academic field with significant potential to influence urban development and policy. Urban metabolism methodologies have long been used to better understand resource requirements and impacts in cities through material flow or ecological footprint analyses. With the surging interest in circular economy, urban metabolism (and other industrial ecology principles) may be able to play a pivotal role in providing a scientific foundation to sustainability transformations. However, a fundamental yet unanswered question is how urban metabolism principles can be translated to on-the-ground interventions, policy recommendations, and initiatives that directly influence and improve urban sustainability.

In conjunction with Metabolism of Cities and local partners, three different one-day seminar events will be organised in 2019. During this event conversations, presentations, and discussions will take place with a focus on how urban metabolism practices could be better applied in this city. During this day we will look at the opportunities, the ambitions, and the challenges that exist in each city and we aim to bring together a diverse range of stakeholders from government, academia, and practice. We will be focusing on getting a more systematic understanding of the local city's resources and the relationship between different resources and how they flow through the city, with a specific focus on locally specific environmental challenges.

The three seminars will take place in Cape Town (May 2019), Beijing (July 2019) and Brussels (October 2019). This seminar series is funded by the Urban Studies Foundation.
Better science-policy-practice interface
Develop tools for collaboration
Urban Metabolism for Policy Makers

Welcome to the first online course on Urban Metabolism for Policy Makers!

The world is urbanising rapidly. In 2050, the number of people living in cities (around 3,5 billion) surpassed the number living in rural areas. While the urban population is hosted only on 3% of global land area, it is also responsible for over 70% of natural resources and energy use and for 80% pollution emissions and waste generation. While cities are responsible for the greatest share of main reader environmental impact, they are also the places where 80% of global GDP is produced and are the nodes of innovation. Therefore, the fight against climate change will be won or lost in cities.

Yet, cities are extremely complex systems where social, economic, political, territorial, ecological, resource, waste, etc. challenges coexist. Urban metabolism is key to look at cities from a systemic point of view dealing all the above-mentioned challenges. This metaphor conceptualises the city as a living organism where resource flows enter, are transformed or stocked and waste flows exit the territory.

This course is targeting policy makers who are interested in learning how urban metabolism can help them develop more comprehensive and system urban policies in order to meet the Paris Agreement targets.

To know what Urban Metabolism is, have a look at the following video!

This is the first MOOC provided by the GI-REC (Global Initiative for Resource Efficient Cities). The GI-REC is a cooperation platform offered by UN Environment to connect different institutions that are using systems approach (and specifically urban metabolism) towards building innovative, resilient and resource efficient cities. This MOOC is produced and run by Metabolism of Cities, in partnership with the League of Cities of the Philippines and UN Environment.

Understand
https://metabolismofcities.org/page/map

https://metabolismofcities.org/page/casestudies
Connect
Communicate

https://sites.google.com/site/circularmetabolismcommunity/
Many thanks
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